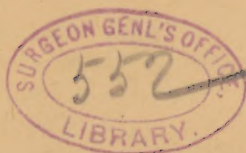


UPSHUR (JOHN N.)

A new cervical dilator



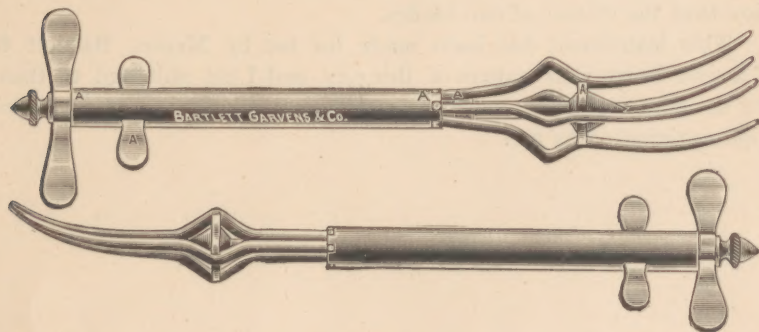
A NEW CERVICAL DILATOR.

ORIGINATED BY JOHN N. UPSHUR, M. D.,

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

The universal experience of gynæcologists in the treatment of stenosis of the cervix uteri for the relief of dysmenorrhœa, for the opening up of the uterine cavity for curettage or other treatment of the endometrium is its temporary benefit, because of subsequent relapse, often in a short time—unless the patient be a married woman and the operation be followed by early conception, the *cure* coming with the *uniform dilatation* as a necessary factor of the delivery.

This having been frequently my own experience, I have devised the instrument illustrated in the subjoined woodcut, and which I now offer to the profession, believing that by its uniform stretching of the cervical fibers *better and more permanent results will be obtained.*



In construction the instrument is fully up to the requirements of modern asepsis, the removal of a single screw in the handle separating all its parts; it is much lighter than Goodell's dilator; it does not obscure the view through the speculum (a bivalve may be used) as



other dilators do. The force is applied by a screw turned by a handle in the end, similar to an *écraseur*, forcing forward a pyramidal body which renders the blade *sufficiently* rigid and diminishes by the more uniform application of the force the risk of laceration. When closed the blades are smooth, with convenient curve, about the size of a No. 9 American sound at tip, No. 14 in the center, and No. 20 at the heel. It measures just eleven inches and weighs less than half a pound. The intra-uterine portion measures two inches. If desired it may be used as a two-bladed instrument in the beginning of the operation. *Twenty-two* turns of the handle opens the blades to the full extent; therefore, by counting the turns made the approximate amount of dilatation may be computed. When fully dilated the blades are about one inch apart in all directions, and two and three quarters in circumference. *These dimensions are absolute*, whereas in using the two-bladed dilator *the amount of dilatation is relative*. Two blades dilate in the form of an ellipse, thus , the stretching being chiefly of the anterior and posterior fibers, the *lateral scarcely at all*, and this explains the tendency, *almost inevitable, to subsequent relapse*. Four blades, on the other hand, as in the instrument offered, *dilate equally in all directions* thus , *equally stretching all fibers of the cervix, and diminishing, if not entirely removing, the tendency to relapse*.

The divulsion may be made under ether at one sitting, or it may be done gradually in the office. Practical trial of the instrument in the office demonstrates its use to be less painful and easier of application than the dilator of two blades.

This instrument has been made for me by Messrs. Bartlett & Garvens, instrument makers of this city, and I am indebted to them for the beautiful finish and nicer mechanical adaptation of the principles originated by me.



